

## Message Text

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INFO RUQMAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE 6872

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177858

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BEIRUT 6372, SENT SECSTATE 18 JULY:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6372

TO EAGLEBURGER AND CONNOLLY FROM SEELYE

E.O9 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, AEMR, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT STAFFING

1. AS YOU KNOW WITH THE STAFF IN BEIRUT CUT TO 14 AMERICANS, WE WILL BE OPERATING WITH VIRTUALLY NO BACK STOPPING CAPABILITY IN MANY KEY AREAS. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE CERTAIN FUNCTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE RE-ESTABLISHED HERE AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE TIME. IN ORDER TO HAVE SOME CAPABLE RELIEF AVAILABLE AND TO BE ABLE, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, TO RE-ESTABLISH KEY FUNCTIONS, I PROPOSE THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE BEIRUT STAFF SHOULD BE KETP IN THE AREA FOR THE TIME BEING. THE STAFF MEMBERS IN THIS CATEGORY HAVE EXPERIENCE IN BEIRUT AND ALL HAVE DISPLAYED THE TOUGHNESS AND DEDICATION NEEDED TO WORK IN A HARDSHIP ENVIRONMENT. NONE OF THEM WANT TO LEAVE BUT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THEM TO DO SO. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

2. CONSULAR SECTION - AS RECOMMENDED IN BEIRUT'S 6315, WE BELIEVE THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS BUDEIT, STAPLETONLAND RUSSELL SHOULD  
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REMAIN IN ATHENS WITH 2 BEIRUT LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO HANDLE VISA

PROBLEMS FOR LEBANESE VISA MATTERS. WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO RE-ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OPERATION IN BEIRUT, THESE OFFICERS SHOULD BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY.

3. SECRETARIAL - LORRAINE SHULTZ AND MRS. GERALDINE O'BRIEN ARE BOTH EXCELLENT SECRETARIES WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR DUTY IN BEIRUT. MRS. SHULTZ HAS PERFORMED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL AS THE SECRETARY TO THE DCM SINCE APRIL AND MRS. O'BRIEN HAS, IN THE SHORT TIME SHE HHTDC TTLHERE, WORKED IN BOTH THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL SECTIONS. WE WILL NEED TDY SUPPORT FOR THE SECRETARY REMAINING IN BEIRUT AND WHEN CONDITIONS ALLOW, BOTH OF THESE SECRETARIES SHOULD BE RETURNED. WE PROPOSE THAT MRS. O'BRIEN BE RETAINED IN ATHENS AND MRS. SHULTZ GO TO EITHER DAMASCUS OR AMMAN FOR TEMPORARY DUTY. THIS WOULD GIVE US THE FLEXIBILITY TO GET ONE OF THEM BACK QUICKLY DEPENDING UPON AVAILABILITY OF THE OVERLAND ROUTE OR FROM ATHENS BY AIR.

4. MRS. LILLIAN WATERMAN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL OFFICERS ON THE STAFF. SHE HAS COVERED A VARIETY OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MATTERS AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, HAS BEEN THE OFFICER COVERING THE IMPORTANT HOSPITAL SUPPLY OPERATION. WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP HER BUT THE NUMBERS WILL JUST NOT ALLOW IT BUT WE RECOGNIZE THAT AS SOON AS THE STAFF CAN BE INCREASED, SHE SHOULD BE RETURNED SOONEST TO COVER THE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED ABOVE. WE RECOMMEND THAT SHE BE RETAINED IN DAMASCUS TO ASSIST THAT POST WITH AUH SUPPLY PROBLEMS AND BE KEPT AVAILABLE TO RETURN TO BEIRUT AS SOON AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO BRING HER BACK.

5. COMMUNICATIONS - WE ARE KEEPING JOHN DAVIS AS THE SOLE C&R OFFICER. WE HOPE THAT BRYON HALLMAN CAN BE RETURNED TO DAMASCUS ON COMPLETION OF VISITATION LEAVE IN THE US. WHEN THE SITUATION ALLOWS, WE WOULD PROPOSE THE HALLMAN WOULD RETURN TO BEIRUT AND DAVIS WOULD BE HELD WITHIN THE ARE FOR TDY RELIEF IN BEIRUT.

6. MARINE SECURITY GUARDS - THE MSG DETACHMENT WILL BE REDUCED TO 4 WATSH STANDERS. EACH MSG WILL WORK A MINIMUM OF 6 DAYS A WEEK. HOPEFULLY THIS IS A TEMPORARY SITUATION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DETACHMENT CAN BE BUILT BACK TO THE REQUIRED LEVEL BUT CONSIDERING CONTINGENCY PLANNING, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- A. DESIGNATE THE BEIRUT DETACHMENT TO BE A SUB-DETACHMENT TO EITHER THE MSG DETAIL IN DAMASCUS OR ATHENS.
- B. ROTATE MSG'S OUT OF BEIRUT ON A 30 TO 60 DAY BASIS DEPENDING UPON AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORTATION.
- C. EACH MSG, UPON COMPLETION TOUR, SHOULD BE GIVEN A

MINIMUM OF 10 DAYS R&R DEPENDING UPON LENGTH OF TOUR.  
THE MARINES WHO LEAVE IN THE FORTHCOMING EVACUATION SHOULD  
BE UTILIZED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS WITHIN THE AREA SO THAT AS  
MANY AS POSSIBLE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO BEIRUT WHEN  
CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
OF YOUR APPROVAL OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS SO THAT SHUTLZ,  
WATERMAN AND POSSIBLY SOME OF THE MARINES CAN BE HELD IN  
DAMASCUS AND NOT PROCEED TO ATHENS. SEELYE UNQUOTE.  
ROBINSON

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